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Title: Problems being faced by farmers in hilly areas of Theni district in Periakulam Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the Government, specially the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Development the pitiable condition of the farmers in my Parliamentary constituency.

Sir, Theni District, fully consists of mountainous and hilly areas like Koadikanal, Megamalai, Highwaywis, Kambam Mettu, Bodimettu, Agamalai etc. The small and marginal farmers grow various vegetables like potato, brinjal, beans, cabbage, cauliflower etc., and fruits like plums, berry, butter fruit, pineapple, apple, hill plantain etc. with their toil standing in Sun and rain. When these vegetables are ready, they have to carry them on their heads in baskets or employ ponies, the small horses, to bring the same thing to the markets and to the main roads for transportation. There are no proper village roads. In the last rainy season, because of torrential rains, tonnes of vegetables and fruits could not be brought to the market and they perished and farmers were forced to just throw them away.

Sir, I would request the Government to put a cold-storage in that area so that the farmers will be benefited. Sometimes the rates are very low. In those days they are throwing out cauliflower, beans etc. on the roads. If the Government puts two cold-storages, one in Kambam valley and another in Kodaikanal valley, the farmers would be benefited. वे लोग जो सामान बनाते हैं, उसे रखने के लिए कोल्ड स्टोरेज बहुत जरूरी है।